

Title II, Part D: Enhancing Education Through Technology

COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM – 2008-09 SCHOOL YEAR

GENERAL INFORMATION

The purpose of the Title II, Part D (Enhancing Education Through Technology) competitive grant program is to provide modest financial assistance to schools with high poverty and the greatest need for technology support and/or schools identified for improvement.

TIMELINE FOR TITLE IID GRANT APPLICATIONS	
Application Release	March 23, 2009
Submission Deadline (Received in VT DOE)	April 17, 2009 4:00 P.M.
Award Announcements	April 30, 2009
Project Implementation	May 15, 2009 - June 30, 2010

TECHNOLOGY GRADE EXPECTATIONS UPDATE:

- The focus of this grant is to select an individual or team of individuals to lead the state in the reformulating of a plan around technology grade expectations. This work is intended to be taken in two phases. The first phase will involve soliciting input from the field and developing a strategy and/or documentation supporting a 21st Century update to the Vermont technology grade expectations. The second phase will involve discussions with both the field and the Vermont Department of Education toward embedding the technology grade expectations within content area grade expectations. (for example: Technology skills or expectations being an integral part of the literacy grade expectations). Funds for phase one of the grant will not exceed \$25,000. Phase two funding will be determined during the phase one process. Total grant funds over the life of the project will not exceed \$50,000.

ELIGIBILITY:

One grant award will be made to an eligible local partnership entity on behalf of eligible high-need Vermont schools, or school districts/ supervisory unions (LEA's).

For purposes of this competition, a “high-need local educational agency” is an LEA that:

- Includes one or more schools with the highest numbers or percentages in the state of children from low-income families *or*
- Serves one or more schools identified for improvement or corrective action under NCLB (§1116), *or*
- Has a substantial need for assistance in acquiring and using technology.

An “eligible local partnership” is a partnership that includes at least one high-need LEA *and* at least one of the following –

- An LEA that can demonstrate that teachers in its schools are effectively integrating technology and proven teaching practices into instruction, based on a review of relevant research, and that the integration results in improvement in classroom instruction and in helping students meet challenging academic standards.
- An institution of higher education that is in full compliance with the reporting

requirements of section 207(f) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and that has not been identified by the State as low performing under that act.

- A for-profit business or organization that develops, designs, manufactures, or produces technology products or services or has substantial expertise in the application of technology in instruction.
- A public or private nonprofit organization with demonstrated expertise in the application of educational technology in instruction.
- An individual with demonstrated expertise and capacity to lead the initiative and address expectations listed below.

REQUIREMENTS: For an LEA to receive funding under this program:

- All schools in the LEA *must* have a current “Educational Technology Plan” approved by the Department of Education through June 30, 2009.
- Must participate in the annual “Technology Indicators Data Collection” conducted by the Department of Education.
- Must certify that all “high-needs” schools in the LEA meet requirements under the Children’s Internet Protection Act.
- Must use a minimum of twenty-five percent (25%) of these funds for ongoing, sustained, intensive, high-quality professional development in integrating and using advanced technologies in instruction and in new learning environments to:
 - a. Educate regional groups on current theories and practices in education technology.
 - b. Build capacity in regions around current best practices in skill sets required of students in 21st Century schools.
 - c. Lead to better awareness and practice on said methods of instruction.

*Note: This grant has inherent professional development encompassing most of the project.

- Private School Participation - LEAs or partnerships must engage private school officials with whom they consult for Title I purposes during the development and implementation of competitive Title II-D programs. Therefore, for the Education Technology competitive awards, the consultation should begin during the development of the local grant applications and, preferably, as part of the LEA consolidated application process. Expenditures for educational services and other benefits for private school children, teachers, and other educational personnel must be proportionate, taking into account the number and educational needs of the children to be served, to the expenditures for participating public school children.

GRANT PROGRAM AREA

NOTE: APPLICATIONS MUST FOLLOW THE FORMAT AND CONTENT REQUIREMENTS AS FOUND ON PAGE 5.

1. UPDATE OF TECHNOLOGY GRADE EXPECTATIONS:

A. Purpose: The overall purpose of the grant is to “update” the current iteration of the technology grade expectations. This will require some input from the field, specifically classroom teachers that currently work with or use the Information Technology Grade Expectations in classroom practice. The Vermont Department of Education will use the National Education Technology Standards – Students 2007 (NETS-S 2007) from the International Society of Technology in Education, as the foundation for this work. The grantee will determine additional needs of the field in their interpretation and use of those standards. It will be imperative for the grantee to seek more input from classroom teachers as to how the GE’s are currently used and assessed (or not).

B. Expectations:

- a. Create and facilitate a process to review, critique, and formulate Vermont’s next initiative with regard to technology grade expectations based on the NETS-2007. Process should have deep and consistent involvement by members of the education community. The Education Technology Coordinator for the State of Vermont will be a member of this group.
- b. Development of set of classroom tools that allow teachers to determine the extent to which they are integrating technology.
- c. Development of a sustainable (beyond the life of the grant) video, audio, and written *resource library* of best practice examples of technology integration using 21st Century skills. In addition to models of technology integration, this library should also include a variety of technology integration assessment models. Vermont’s Riverdeep Learning Village is the desired repository of these resources.
- d. Development of methods, tools and resources to support schools that may move toward adoption of National Education Technology Standards for Teachers (NETS-T) and Administrators (NETS-A) in the future.
- e. A plan for the next phase of work which involves the embedding of technology grade expectations directly into content area standards.

C. Work implications for grantee: Writing, editing in both print and video form are skills likely required, either by the individual or entity or by a hired third party. Much of the early work will involve coordination of meetings around the state, so a flexible schedule and a reliable vehicle are both required. Meetings may be carried on by other means, including, but not limited to, webinars, Learning Network of Vermont connections, and conference calls. Best applications will outline a plan for disseminating and soliciting information from around the field and how the grantee will work closely with the Department of Education in matching the goals set forth in the Vermont Transformation of Education.

a. The grant will support the following:

- i. Conference and meeting spaces for regional meetings to be held around the state.
- ii. Mileage, lodging, stipends, coordinator expenses for individuals or entities involved in the work.
- iii. Stipends for people involved in the project including committee members, writers, editors, contributors, other organizers of events and tasks.
- iv. This is NOT a hardware grant, though very limited support will be provided in this category.

D. Grant Amount: The maximum amount of funds for which a school, district or supervisory union may apply is not to exceed \$25,000. It will be assumed that Phase Two will commence with the same grantee. This budget amount will be negotiated as Phase One develops more fully.

E. Timeline: Award in April 2009, funds available May 15, 2009 and grant expiration June 30, 2010.

Please see the “Format and Contents” section for information on how to structure the application starting on Page 5.

Application Format & Content

Total application should be **NO MORE THAN FIVE (5) PAGES**, single-spaced, font sizes 10-12.

- 1. Program Description** (no more than 2 pages) – Describe what individual or entity will do to coordinate meetings, develop a plan, and carry through the task. **(50 Points)**
 - **Goals** - Clear articulation of the Expectations described in this RFP.
 - **Scope of Work** - Specific, bulleted list of the work to be performed and the products or outcomes of the project clearly articulated.
- 2. Capacity for Success** (no more than 1 page) – This particular aspect is crucial. Individuals or entities must have the capacity to do the work during school day hours and be available to work over summer months. Describe why this is the right kind and size of project for your entity. Include such items as: **(20 Points)**
 - Who (describe roles, not individual names please) will be responsible for conducting the work?
 - What structures and procedures are already in place or proposed that will support this project and/or enhance its sustainability?
 - Evidence that this plan is realistic and that the grantee has the capacity to achieve the objectives.
- 3. Evaluation** (no more than 1 page) – Upon completion of the project, there will be an evaluation required for final reporting. The evaluation will be generated by the Department of Education. As the project moves through the grant phase, describe the process for how grantee will continually evaluate the progress and process of the project. **(20 Points)**
 - The critical questions that will need to be addressed over time.
 - What mechanisms will be in place to evaluate and adjust as the project moves forward?
 - Who or what may be involved over time to collect data in order to develop some evaluative results?
 - Who within the state needs to learn about your evaluation findings and what difference the knowledge might make?
- 4. Budget Narrative (no more than 1 page.): You must also complete the **SEPARATE BUDGET PAGE**.** The budget narrative should demonstrate a logical connection to the expectations described (above), and should be specific enough to give reviewers an idea of your priorities and focus for funding. The narrative should include: **(10 Points)**
 - Justification for the major expenditures proposed, especially salaries.
 - Explanation of any items on the budget sheet that might not be completely clear to a reader.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

All applications must include an Original plus TWO (2) copies (Faxed or e-mailed applications will NOT be accepted) with:

- Application Cover Page with superintendent's signature
- Program Description not to exceed TWO (2) pages (see instructions above)

Application Deadline: Original plus two (2) copies of applications must be received by the Vermont Department of Education no later than **4:00 p.m. on April 17, 2009**. Mail to:

Title II, Part D Technology Grants - c/o Peter Drescher
Vermont State Department of Education
120 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05620-2501

Selection Process: All applications will be read and reviewed by an independent review panel. This panel will rate the quality of the application (See Scoring Rubric Page 7) and the capacity of the applicant to successfully implement what has been proposed. Applications will be scored in each of the five areas described above.

Scoring Rubric: Enhancing Education Through Technology

Criteria	Poor	Average	Excellent
Program Description – Describe what grantee will do with the funds if received. In addition to a clear description of the activities to be undertaken, points will be assigned for. (50 Points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Are goals around the expectations clearly articulated?</i> <i>Is there a bulleted Scope of Work that supports those goals?</i> <i>Are needs & process for identifying them clearly identified?</i> 	0 – 17	18 – 35	36 – 50
Program Description – Total Score (MAX is 50):			
Capacity for Success - Describe why this is the right kind and size of plan for your entity, and what structures are in place to support it? (20 Points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Have the parties responsible for conducting the work been identified?</i> <i>Are structures, resources, policies, and procedures in place or proposed?</i> <i>Is the plan realistic? Does capacity exist to achieve objectives?</i> 	0 – 6	7 – 13	14 – 20
Capacity for Success – Total Score (MAX is 20):			
Evaluation - Describe the process you will follow to focus and possibly adjust to meet the expectations. (20 Points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Are the primary focus areas and specific measurements identified?</i> <i>Are the participants and their roles identified?</i> <i>How will you report your findings to stakeholders in the statewide community?</i> 	0 – 6	7 – 13	14 – 20
Evaluation – Total Score (MAX is 20):			
Budget Narrative and Page – The budget should demonstrate a logical connection to the areas described above, and should be specific enough to give reviewers an idea of your priorities and focus for funding. (10 Points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Is justification for major expenditures (especially salaries) reasonable?</i> <i>Explanation of items that won't be immediately obvious to someone reading your application for the first time</i> 	0 – 3	4 – 7	8 – 10
Budget – Total Score (MAX is 10):			
TOTAL SCORE (MAX IS 100)	_____		

Budget Page

Grant Area

Update of Technology GE's

Budget (Describe as appropriate)	TOTAL
Professional development (25% requirement)	
Meeting costs (include meals)	
Coordinator salary	
Stipends for additional personnel	
Equipment	
Evaluation	
Other... use additional lines here to fill in if necessary...	
TOTAL	

- Please use Budget Narrative page to elaborate and/or describe further

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Competitive Grant Program – 2008-09

APPLICATION COVER PAGE

School District or SU			
Contact Person			
Phone			
Fax			
E-mail			
Grant Program Area	Tech GE Update €		
List all schools for which this application applies	<u>Schools</u> This is a statewide focus	<u>Grade Spans</u>	<u>Enrollment</u> (To be completed by VT DOE)
Total Funds Requested			
CIPA Certification	Superintendent has certified CIPA compliance (Check one or more): ___ on school technology plans ___ on last E-Rate application ___ on 2004 Consolidated E-Application		
Superintendent's Signature			
Date			